

Dr M slams the opportunists

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — In his hard-hitting presidential speech today, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad minced no words when he berated opportunists in Umno.

"There is no place in Umno for those who put self-interest above other considerations and who refuse to bow to the will of the party in accordance with the Constitution which brought it into existence," he said.

"If the party leader had made a mistake, there is a time and a procedure for correcting him or changing the leadership. If a provision in the Constitution is faulty, there is a time and a procedure for amending the Constitution.

But a person who says the leadership is wrong or a provision in the Constitution is wrong only when he does not get something he covets is an opportunist, who would not mind benefiting from the leadership's mistake and protests only when he does not benefit."

'Distressing'

In the last general elections, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there were opportunists of this sort who acted badly when they failed to get something for themselves.

"Such undesirable behaviour and attitude are all the more distressing since these are the very persons who have benefited substantially from the

loyalty of others.

"Some are ex-MPs and State Assemblymen. They become MPs and State Assemblymen in the past because when they were nominated, all Umno members and leaders at all levels worked very hard to ensure their victory.

"Among those who worked are the ones nominated this time. But the ex-MPs and State Assemblymen refused to help them and some are suspected of having helped Umno's opponents. That was how they repaid those who once helped them to win.

"Others who wished to be candidates but were not nominated tried to persuade some Umno members not to cooperate to ensure the victory of Umno's candidates."